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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background
The offer by the Catholic Cemeteries Board (CCB) in 2009 to the Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery Trust (GHMCT) to assist with the management of Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery necessitated the preparation of draft landscape conservation objectives and management guidelines so that both the Board and the Trust could agree on a management regime that would conserve the heritage values of the cemetery while improving the general level of maintenance for the place as a whole and its individual built and landscape elements.

The subsequent agreement between the CCB and the NSW Land and Property Management Authority (LPMA) formalised the management arrangement and the CCB engaged landscape contractor Marsupial to carry out a horticultural maintenance program in the cemetery. The draft objectives and guidelines have now been amended through a consultative process involving representatives of the Trust and its consultant, the CCB and its consultant, the CCB’s contractor, LPMA, and the Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning.

Pending preparation of a new Plan of Management for Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery, this document is intended to form the basis for management of the cemetery landscape in such a way that maintenance is improved but heritage values are retained.

1.2 Authorship and Acknowledgments
These objectives and guidelines have been prepared by Chris Betteridge, Director, MUSEcape Pty Ltd, Heritage Consultants with input by Graham Brooks, consultant to the CCB. The author would like to thank GHMCT members Dr George Gibbons, John May and John Flint also Ron Heather, the cemetery’s former Garden Coordinator for their kind assistance in the preparation of the document and all Trust members for their comments on the draft. The assistance of Stephen Fenn, the LPMA advisor on cemetery strategy, Michael McMahon, John Richardson and Mathew Teasdale of CCB, Petula Samios and Dr Siobhan Lavelle of Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning and members of the Marsupial team, is also gratefully acknowledged.

2.0 Statement of Significance
Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery is an item of State heritage significance listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR). The Statement of Significance for the place in the 1996 Plan of Management and the nomination for SHR listing remains valid and has been used for development of these Conservation Management Objectives and Maintenance Guidelines. While a new Plan of Management for the cemetery may result in minor changes to the Statement of Significance, these are not considered likely to involve any major amendments to the nature and level of significance for the place.
Retention of significance should be the major principle guiding development of conservation policy and management guidelines. The GHMCT and the CCB are monitoring the ongoing management of the cemetery to ensure an integrated program of preservation, repairs and sympathetic maintenance.

3.0 Some Relevant Issues and Objectives

3.1 Statutory Responsibilities
Responsibilities under the Heritage Act 1977, as amended, arising from the listing of the cemetery on the State Heritage Register must remain with the GHMCT. A mutually agreed system of consultation and communication between the GHMCT and the CCB is necessary for this reason. This should also deal with matters of precedent in the management of the cemetery which, while more flexible, should be varied only by agreement between the GHMCT, the CCB, the LPMA and Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning, pending completion of the Plan of Management Review.

3.2 Unity versus Sectional Differences
Although the cemetery exhibits differences in style between the denominational sections, reflecting the differences in approach to memorialisation between the major religions represented in the place, there is also a unity resulting partly from the original design layout, partly from the unified management applied to the cemetery for the great part of its history and partly from the policy of 'controlled overgrowth' pursued by the GHMCT since the Plan of Management was adopted in 1996.

While the ‘controlled overgrowth’ policy has obscured some of the sectional differences within the cemetery, they are still apparent and should be conserved and, if possible, enhanced. For instance, the crossed rows of palms in the old Catholic and Church of England sections need to be conserved and replanted as necessary. The strong demarcation between these two sections resulting from the Indian Hawthorn hedge should also be conserved.

Figure 1 The symbolic crossed rows of palms are a major landscape element in the cemetery that must be conserved. The practice of replacing missing trees from these rows should be continued.
Figure 2  Jesuit ‘circle’ with Bishop of Auckland cross in centre, surrounded by marble memorials to Jesuits and with old azaleas at the corners. Over-zealous pruning in the past of one of the azaleas caused it to die, requiring the propagation of a replacement from cuttings taken from one of the other shrubs. Pruning should only be carried out in accordance with industry best practice, at the appropriate time for the particular species.

Figure 3  Plots containing burials of members of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart. While this area is easy to maintain, it is not considered an appropriate treatment for large areas of the cemetery.

Figure 4  The mown grass on and around the Hordern family plot should be maintained.

While some sectional variation in approach is acceptable, there are constraints arising from significance and statutory obligations that must be strictly observed. It is expected that the CCB horticulturalist on site would normally be able to deal with any such matters on the spot but simple resolution mechanisms also need to be available.
3.3  *The Cemetery is Old and should look Old*

Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery dates from the last quarter of the 19th century but the majority of memorials are from the first three decades of the 20th century. The place is more than 130 years old and has been closed to burials for more than 30 years. The cultural landscape has matured in that time, with many old tree and shrub plantings and well-established herbaceous vegetation. The grave memorials have acquired a patina of age through natural weathering and biological growth and in combination with the layout, location, mature plantings and seasonal variations in flowering these factors together give the cemetery a distinctive landscape character that is quite different from other Sydney public cemeteries including Rookwood, Waverley, Macquarie Park, Randwick or Field of Mars. Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery is old and should look old, without the introduction of intrusive new materials, currently fashionable landscape plantings or ‘over-manicured’ or fastidious gardening regimes.

![Figure 5](image.png)

*Figure 5* Over time Gore Hill Memorial Cemetery has acquired a patina of age, with a distinctive landscape character that contributes greatly to its heritage significance and charm – a place for quiet contemplation and remembrance in an area that is becoming increasingly urbanised. It is important that horticultural management maintains this character through a combination of targeted herbicide use and carefully-timed pruning that encourages desirable species to remain while eliminating undesirable weeds.

3.4  *Weed Control*

GHMC is close to areas of remnant bushland where invasive plant species need to be carefully controlled to enable retention of nature conservation values. The cemetery has been a repository for a number of exotic weed species particularly privets, both *Ligustrum lucidum* (Large-leaved Privet) and *Ligustrum sinense* (Small-leaved Privet). Much has been achieved in controlling privet in the cemetery through ongoing eradication programs and consistent effort by former Garden Coordinator Ron Heather and volunteers over many years. The only privet to be retained in the short term is the hedge of *L. lucidum* that forms a major landscape element along the inner western...
boundary. This original hedge will be pruned regularly to retain shape and minimise flowering / fruiting.

Other species now posing a threat to the cemetery landscape and possibly to nearby natural areas include *Asparagus aethiopicus* (Asparagus Fern) and *Rhaphiolepis indica* (Indian Hawthorn), both of which produce copious quantities of fruit and are readily spread by birds. Ongoing control of these species and other plants likely to cause future problems needs to be coordinated across the cemetery to achieve maximum results. For instance, it would be counter-productive if a control measure for a particular species was applied in one part of the cemetery but not in others or if control programs were out of phase, allowing seed to be spread from an untreated area to a treated section.

Set out below is a schedule of weed species and potentially invasive plants, with noxious weed categories¹ and recommended control measures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weed Species</th>
<th>Control Method</th>
<th>Locations</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Acetosa sagittata</em> (Turkey Rhubarb)</td>
<td>Control with appropriate herbicide</td>
<td>Prefers damp, disturbed areas</td>
<td>Weed Category W4b - established plantings must be prevented from flowering or fruiting. Vigorous prostrate or climbing perennial herb.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Anredera cordifolia</em> (Madeira Vine)</td>
<td>Remove from structures and trees and control with appropriate herbicide.</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery</td>
<td>Weed Category W4c - land occupier must prevent spread to adjoining property. Spreads vegetatively by the growth of aerial tubers along succulent stems. Also underground tubers ensure survival after disturbance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ *Stop the Spread*, Noxious Weeds Committee – Sydney North
<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Genista monspessulana</em> (Cape Broom)</td>
<td>Pull out young plants. Control older plants with appropriate herbicide</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery</td>
<td>Weed Category W4b - established plantings must be prevented from flowering or fruiting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Imperata cylindrica</em> (Bladey Grass)</td>
<td>Pruning to top of kerb</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery</td>
<td>Native species but tends to form dense mats on graves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lantana camara</em> (Lantana)</td>
<td>Control with appropriate herbicide</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery but particularly along boundaries</td>
<td>Weed Category W2 - must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed. Black berries spread by birds. Branches can also re-root at ground level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ligustrum lucidum</em> (Broad-leaved Privet)</td>
<td>Cut and treat trunk with appropriate herbicide e.g. glyphosate. For larger trees frill trunk by making horizontal cuts around the trunk to depth of growing layer and apply glyphosate-based herbicide immediately.</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery. Retain original hedge along inner western boundary by regular pruning to improve shape and minimise flowering/fruiting.</td>
<td>Weed category W4b – established plantings must be prevented from flowering or fruiting. May be confused with the native <em>Acmena smithii</em> Lilly Pilly) but the latter has oil glands in its leaves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ligustrum sinense</em> (Small-leaved Privet)</td>
<td>Cut and treat trunk with appropriate herbicide e.g. glyphosate. For larger trees frill trunk by making horizontal cuts around the trunk to depth of growing layer and apply glyphosate-based herbicide immediately.</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery</td>
<td>Weed category W4b – established plantings must be prevented from flowering or fruiting. May be confused with the native <em>Backhousia myrtifolia</em> (Grey Myrtle, Ironwood) but the latter has oil glands in its leaves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Nephrolepis cordifolia</em> (Fishbone Fern) and <em>Nephrolepis exaltata</em> (Sword Fern, Boston Fern)</td>
<td>Mechanical removal and/or targeted application of appropriate herbicide.</td>
<td>Selected locations where fern is obscuring inscriptions or posing a threat to fabric.</td>
<td>Can form dense stands and can damage mortar joints on kerbs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ochna serrulata</em> (Ochna, Mickey Mouse Plant)</td>
<td>Mechanical removal and control with appropriate herbicide</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery</td>
<td>Weed category W4b – established plantings must be prevented from flowering or fruiting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weed Species</td>
<td>Control Method</td>
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<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Olea europaea</em> ssp. <em>Africana</em> (African Olive)</td>
<td>Cut and treat trunk with appropriate herbicide e.g. glyphosate. For larger trees frill trunk by making horizontal cuts around the trunk to depth of growing layer and apply glyphosate-based herbicide immediately.</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery</td>
<td>A major weed of south-western Sydney and becoming a problem in the cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Parietaria judaica</em> (Asthma Weed, Pellitory, Sticky Weed)</td>
<td>Seek advice on appropriate removal techniques.</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery</td>
<td>Weed Category W3 – must be prevented from spreading and its numbers and distribution reduced. Special Note: Pollen can cause serious allergic reactions such as rhinitis, asthma and conjunctivitis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Asparagus aethiopicus</em> (Asparagus Fern)</td>
<td>Spraying with Associate and surfactant</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery</td>
<td>Weed Category W4c – land occupier must prevent spread to adjoining property. This species, which has a dense mat of tuberous roots and produces copious quantities of berries is particularly invasive and difficult to control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Asparagus plumosus</em> (Climbing Asparagus)</td>
<td>Spraying with appropriate herbicide</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery</td>
<td>Weed Category W4c - land occupier must prevent spread to adjoining property</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pteridium esculentum</em> (Bracken)</td>
<td>Removal of dead fronds. Targeted application of appropriate herbicide in situations where retention might cause problems.</td>
<td>Selected locations where fern is obscuring inscriptions or posing a threat to fabric.</td>
<td>Can spread on cleared ground to become a pest. Dead fronds can be a potential fuel for fires started by vandals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rhaphiolepis indica</em> (Indian Hawthorn)</td>
<td>Mechanical removal of small plants, otherwise cutting back and painting with glyphosate</td>
<td>Retain and prune formal hedge between old Catholic and Church of England sections and to north of Hordern plot but remove from any graves where this species is obscuring inscriptions or threatening damage</td>
<td>This species is proliferating in the cemetery and needs more control than in the past. On plots without monuments Indian Hawthorn can be replaced by a non-invasive flowering ornamental such as old varieties of Azalea Indica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weed Species</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ricinus communis</em> (Castor Oil Plant)</td>
<td>Pull out young plants. Control older plants with appropriate herbicide.</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery</td>
<td>Weed Category W2 – must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed. Seeds are toxic to humans and animals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Rubus fruticosus</em> sens. lat. (Blackberry)</td>
<td>Hand removal of seedlings. Cut and paint stems of older plants with appropriate herbicide such as approved blackberry killer.</td>
<td>Throughout cemetery</td>
<td>Weed Category W2 – must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed. Contractors need to be made aware that roses and blackberry are closely related and careful identification is required so that significant roses are not sprayed by mistake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Tradescantia fluminensis</em> (Trad) (formerly called Wandering Jew)</td>
<td>Hand removal of small occurrences. Treatment of larger areas with appropriate herbicide followed by replacement with a suitable shade-tolerant native ground cover</td>
<td>Particularly in shady sites along eastern boundary</td>
<td>Weed Category W4c – land occupier must prevent spread to adjoining property. This plant can be confused with the native ground cover <em>Commelina cyanea</em> which has blue rather than white flowers and has thick, fleshy roots.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Pittosporum undulatum</em> (Sweet Pittosporum)</td>
<td>Mechanical removal of small plants or poisoning with glyphosate</td>
<td>Remove from graves where species is obscuring inscription or posing threat to fabric</td>
<td>This native species is becoming invasive in much of coastal NSW and needs to be controlled.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.0 Recommended Treatment for Specific Cemetery Sections

4.1 The Baptist Section

The Baptist Section at the south east of the Cemetery is characterised by desk and slab graves with a relatively small number of stelae and obelisks. Pathways run east-west and the appearance is generally modest and austere. The Section is dominated by tall grasses, some *Coreopsis lanceolata* (Coreopsis, Calliopsis), scattered regrowth of small native trees, limited areas of asparagus fern and scattered invasive Indian Hawthorn trees. There are areas of *Watsonia* sp. and a small number of azaleas and rose bushes that need pruning. Five trees of self-sown *Homolanthus populifolius* (Bleeding Hearts) growing within or close to graves are causing or have the potential to cause damage and should be removed.
In general the initial cut programme will be appropriate for this area, combined with the associated cutting and poisoning of woody shrubs and trees. Retain selected patches of Watsonia and selected grasses, where they are free from secondary weeds during the initial cutting stage. Cut down and apply targeted use of appropriate herbicides to control invasive weeds such as Asparagus aethiopicus (Asparagus Fern) and Nephrolepis cordifolia (Fishbone Fern). Encourage the regrowth of Coreopsis and other selected species such as native grasses by more careful cutting in subsequent rounds of maintenance.

4.2 The Church of England (Anglican) Section
The Church of England Section is notable for its north-south pathways and a higher number of stelae and other tall monuments. The tall row of palms on the major north-south pathway tends to divide the Section into sub-zones with different landscape issues. The south eastern portion is dominated by several rows of graves heavily overgrown with Wisteria, Honeysuckle and Briar Rose that totally obscure the graves, with some Indian Hawthorn. The central and western portions have infestations of Watsonia combined with Asparagus Fern and/or Fishbone Fern. Northern areas are notable for the invasive Indian Hawthorn shrubs that appear to have “escaped” from the major hedge that divides the old Anglican and Catholic Sections.

In general the initial cut program will be appropriate for this area, combined with the associated cutting and poisoning of woody shrubs and trees. Retain selected patches of Watsonia and selected grasses, where they are free from secondary weeds during the initial cutting stage. Cut down and apply targeted use of appropriate herbicides to control invasive weeds such as asparagus and fishbone ferns. Prune the overgrown hedges to improve shape and remove those likely to obscure memorials. Trim the main east-west Indian Hawthorn hedge between the Old Anglican and Old Catholic sections, as well as the semi-circular arc of hedge around the northern side of the Hordern monument plot to improve shape and reduce its fruiting after flowering, pending a decision on the longer-term retention or replacement of these hedges. Prune the larger rose bushes that are scheduled for retention. Encourage the regrowth of Coreopsis and other selected species by more careful, timed cutting in subsequent rounds of maintenance.

4.3 The Old Catholic Section
The original Catholic Section, at the northern end of the cemetery, has been largely subject to the initial cutting program. Many of the early graves, headstones and monuments can now be comprehensively appreciated for the first time in several decades, enabling the early character of the cemetery to be appreciated. The recent warm weather conditions have encouraged rapid regrowth of some grasses and small plants. This will be monitored and brought into the same maintenance programme as applicable for the remainder of the cemetery.

In general the initial cut program has been appropriate for this area, and will be combined with the associated cutting and poisoning of woody weed shrubs and trees. Retain selected regrowth of Watsonia and selected grasses, where
they are free from secondary weeds during the initial cutting stage. Cut down and apply targeted use of appropriate herbicides to invasive weeds such as Asparagus Fern and Fishbone Fern. Trim the main Indian Hawthorn hedge. Prune the larger rose bushes that are scheduled for retention to improve their shape and flowering. Retain ground cover plants that are non invasive below the shaded areas along the perimeter tree lines (e.g Vinca major (Periwinkle)). Encourage the regrowth of Coreopsis and other selected species by more carefully timed cutting in subsequent rounds of maintenance.

In the long term there may be a need to replant the missing palm trees on the eastern side of the Catholic Section, adjacent to the central carriageway.

This area is likely to be the subject of significant pedestrian traffic associated with visitation and pilgrimage to Mary MacKillop’s original burial site. Areas of dangerous and uneven brick pathways shall be taken up, regraded or re-laid as required.

Other works to Mary MacKillop’s precinct will be the subject of separate works proposals, including the following:

Repair to lawn on MacKillop plot involving herbicide application to kill current cover including extensive weed growth in turf, possible cultivation of upper level of soil to improve structure and drainage, topsoil application to raise soil to original level, returfing with appropriate grass variety. This work to be subject to prior consultation with religious order.

Construction of security fence on inside of kerb. Design to be finalised but should be visually recessive and should discourage possibility of visitors climbing on or over fence. Fence posts to be fixed to visually recessive concrete pads. Possible use of security device such as infrared beams to prevent visitors entering plot. This would require power from pole on Pacific Highway nature strip.

Bench seats to be located to northwest of plot, not at northern side of Dalton Vault. Brick paths to be repaired to remove trip hazards. Care to be taken to retain and relay existing bricks rather than introduce new paving that might look out of place in the precinct.

Possible application of new memorial plaques on MacKillop obelisk so that inscription can be read from all sides. (south-facing side of obelisk currently has no plaque and therefore visitors standing in area with most circulation space can’t see inscription.).

Possible erection of sympathetically located and designed columbarium to west of MacKillop plot. Design to be finalised but should be of brick construction to blend with other brick in Cemetery.

**The “Jesuit Circle”**
Prune azaleas at corners of “Jesuit circle” to maintain shape and encourage flowering. Replacement of missing iron post and former chain boundary
treatment to be subject of separate contract. CCB to have replacement posts cast to match original.

4.4 Perimeter landscaping on both sides of the central Carriageway
The Perimeter landscaping on both sides of the central Carriageway was formerly dominated by mature camphor laurels, which were removed following their infestation with fungal diseases. The large trees that remain are often surrounded by opportunistic growth of large and small shrubs and ground cover plants. Some tree ferns and other “rain forest” plants provide a special character to this area.

Remove the invasive Indian Hawthorn and other invasive weeds and shrubs. Prune the large clumps of *Strelitzia nicolai* and retain desirable shade-tolerant species such as *Acanthus* etc.

4.5 Westbourne Street boundary from Pacific Highway to The Carriageway
General clean-up to control weed species. Provide possible disabled access from Westbourne Street to MacKillop plot as part of separate contract.

4.6 Northern Carriageway Entrance
The two major clumps of *Strelitzia nicolai* (Bird-of-Paradise Tree) at the northern entry to the central carriageway will be retained and managed.

Repairs will be required to the circular planter boxes for the *Strelitzia nicolai* clumps. These plantings are important gateway landscaping that should be retained. Repairs will probably involve an increase in the diameter of the planters by 300mm or more and introduction of a vertical root barrier to control future plant growth.

CCB indicate that new entrance gates will need to be erected prior to the October 2010 deadline. Given the need to retain the *Strelitzia* plantings, the new gates may need to be constructed on the southern side of these plantings with splayed fence sections either side. The gates should be a contemporary design that is obviously new work but is sympathetic to the Cemetery landscape.

4.7 Westbourne Street boundary from The Carriageway to Royal North Shore Hospital
General clean-up to control weed species but *Vinca major* (Greater Periwinkle) to be retained as a good shade-tolerant ground cover traditionally used in historic cemeteries for its symbolic associations. *Chlorophytum* sp (Spiderwort) to be controlled by spraying due to its highly invasive nature.
4.8 Babies’ Graves in Presbyterian section and generally
These graves to be treated sensitively, with careful removal of undesirable weed species but retention, uncut, of symbolic species and obvious planted species such as jonquils. Additional planting of bulbs may be appropriate on these plots.

4.9 The Wesleyan and Old Presbyterian Sections
The Wesleyan and Old Presbyterian Sections on the north east side of the cemetery are dominated by the heavy perimeter tree planting and secondary growth of woody shrubs and self-sown trees. The underlying structure is less formal than in other sections and the number of monuments relatively few. A narrow row of children’s graves is particularly sensitive, while the north eastern precinct has been well maintained by a volunteer. Isolated patches of commemorative plants and native grasses survive in relatively good condition. A small number of *Agave americana* (Century Plant) are present. Where leaves of these and other spiky succulents such as *Yucca filamentosa* occur close to paths, their overhanging leaf tips should be pruned to prevent injury to visitors. Patches of bracken are present across the north eastern precinct.

In general the initial cut program will be appropriate for this area, combined with the associated cutting and poisoning of woody shrubs and trees. Retain selected patches of commemorative plants and selected grasses, where they are free from secondary weeds during the initial cutting stage. Cut down and spray invasive weeds such as asparagus, fishbone ferns and bracken.

Targeted application of appropriate herbicides, followed by carefully timed regime of subsequent cutting to encourage regrowth of desirable weed and symbolic species and suppression of undesirable species.

4.10 The Congregational, Methodist and New Presbyterian Sections
The Congregational, Methodist and New Presbyterian Sections demonstrate the typical landscaping issues with invasive patterns of Indian Hawthorn, bracken, fishbone fern and honeysuckle. There is one small clump of purpose-planted miniature conifers associated with a modest grave. The small storage shed in the Methodist section is covered with a now dead vine. This should be removed from the structure and future growth on the building prevented.

In general the initial cut program will be appropriate for this area, combined with the associated cutting and poisoning of woody shrubs and trees. Retain selected patches of symbolic and commemorative plants and selected grasses, where they are free from secondary weeds during the initial cutting stage. Cut down and spray invasive weeds such as asparagus, fishbone ferns, honeysuckle and bracken. Encourage the regrowth of *Coreopsis* and other selected species by more careful, timed cutting in subsequent rounds of maintenance.
4.11 The New Catholic Section

The New Catholic Section is heavily infested with excessive growth of rose, honeysuckle, blackberry and Indian Hawthorn that completely obscure whole rows of headstones. The Indian Hawthorn delineating hedge requires trimming and management to improve shape and limit fruiting. Two large lawn plots are well managed.

In general the initial cut program will be appropriate for this area, combined with the associated cutting and poisoning of woody shrubs and trees. Retain selected patches of Watsonia and selected grasses, where they are free from secondary weeds during the initial cutting stage. Cut down and spray invasive weeds such as asparagus and fishbone ferns. Cut back the overgrown rose, honeysuckle and hawthorn. Encourage the regrowth of Coreopsis and other selected species by more careful, timed cutting in subsequent rounds of maintenance.

5.0 Maintenance of Grave Plots

5.1 Graves with intact slabs and uniform cover of gravel, scoria, marble or quartz chips or intact tiled tops generally.

Control weeds including Coreopsis by careful herbicide application (retention of plant growth on these graves is likely to cause deterioration of historic fabric). In some cases, control may require use of wands or painting with herbicide rather than use of sprays.

![Figure 6 The gravel on top of this grave has been replaced only relatively recently but has been invaded by plants of Coreopsis lanceolata (Coreopsis Calliopsis). While this species provides welcome seasonal colour with its yellow daisy flowers in spring, it should not be left on a grave that is in as good condition as this. The plants can be removed by hand and the gravel raked evenly.]

5.2 Graves with woody or herbaceous vegetation

Where the grave has a monument then woody plants are to be removed and vegetation on the grave is to be trimmed sufficiently so that the inscription can be read. This normally means that the vegetation would be maintained at the level of the surrounding kerb or below except for periods when growth of suitable flowering plants such as jonquils, freesias and coreopsis is to be encouraged. The timing and frequency of trimming will need to be adjusted so that the flowering and seeding times of various desirable plants can be accommodated.
5.3 Graves without monuments

Where a grave does not have a monument then the vegetation on the grave is to be treated similarly as for a grave with a monument, however appropriate woody plants may be retained to provide diversity and colour and suitable species such as azalea may even be planted where appropriate.

The vegetation pruning regime will also be dependent on rainfall patterns as well as seasonal flowering patterns and may need to be accelerated or decelerated as necessary.
6.0 Monuments

6.1 Damaged Monuments
Damaged monuments should be repaired where feasible according to a priority list based on significance and cost-effectiveness / ease of repair.

**Figure 10** This monument has been broken into too many pieces to warrant repair. However if it is considered sufficiently significant and funds are available, its presentation could be improved by fixing the fragments to a sloping base using appropriate materials.

**Figure 11** This broken Calvary Cross memorial could be repaired and re-erected on its base with dowels and appropriate adhesives.

Temporary conservation measures may be employed to minimise further deterioration to a damaged monument.

Any new monuments erected to mark previously unmarked graves or to replace damaged monuments should be in keeping with surrounding monuments in both style and materials.

6.2 Kerbs and metal grave surrounds
Both kerbs and metal grave surrounds are to be retained even when incomplete or broken except where they may cause injury. Broken fragments should be labelled and safely stored in accordance with the Plan of Management.

Metal grave surrounds may be treated with a rust inhibitor such as fish oil or, if there is evidence that they were previously painted, they may be treated with appropriate rust converter and repainted.
In this case a tree has caused minor damage to the kerb of a grave plot. The contribution the tree makes to the amenity and character of the cemetery landscape far outweighs the level of damage. Unless such instances are causing major public safety hazards they should be accepted as part of the natural ageing of the cemetery landscape.

Figure 13 Cast iron grave surrounds add significantly to the aesthetic values of the cemetery. While the material is robust, corrosion of the metal over time results in loss of detail and gradual deterioration. The rate of decay can be slowed by application of rust inhibitors such as fish oil. Significant examples can be conserved by appropriate treatment.

7.0 Paths

Brick paths are to be retained and repaired where necessary according to a priority list. Slip hazards from grass and other biological growth such as algae should be reduced by herbicide spraying. Use of Quat 50 quaternary ammonium spray may be more effective than Glyphosate, subject to Marsupial checking OS & H requirements. This treatment should provide better control of both grasses and algal and moss growth, thereby reducing potential slip hazards, particularly in heavily shaded areas. Particular care is to be taken in areas where palms are planted in paths to protect plantings and to ensure that there are no long-term impacts on significant vegetation in adjacent plots. Mechanical devices such as whipper snippers should not be used against kerbs because they cause damage to the stone fabric.
8.0 Interpretation including Signage

Interpretation is the communication of significance by various methods which may include the reading of the landscape itself but which may be complemented by means such as signs, publications, education programs, guided tours, self-guided walks. Some elements such as the surviving stumps of old trees remind us that the area now occupied by the cemetery once supported Blue Gum High Forest\(^2\) dominated by *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum), *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt), *Eucalyptus resinifera* (Red Mahogany) and *Syncarpia glomulifera* (Turpentine). Living specimens of some of these species survive around the cemetery’s boundaries. Such evidence is an important part of the interpretation of the site’s environmental history and should be retained.

Figure 15  This stump in Row 11 of the Presbyterian section of the cemetery helps to interpret the environmental history of the place. Some stumps of camphor laurels beside The Carriageway removed because they were diseased also are indicators of how the landscape has evolved over more than 130 years.

A uniform, integrated approach should be adopted across the cemetery for all signage – section-marking, way-finding / directional, informational / safety and interpretive. Signage for any particular purpose should be uniform in style, heritage ‘friendly’, easily read, vandal resistant and easily replaceable.

Figure 16  There is an opportunity to replace the outdated original interpretive signage (three panels at right of this image) and to introduce a new, integrated signage system in the cemetery.
9.0 Burial Records
Any computerised indexes of the deceased should be integrated and compatible across the cemetery.

10.0 Record Keeping
Recording of maintenance schedules and works carried out should be in accordance with the Plan of Management and should be fully shared between the GHMCT and the CCB.

11.0 The Current Landscape Management Program
Some areas within the cemetery have traditionally been maintained to a high level, with lawn and some ornamental shrubs. Particular examples include the Jesuit ‘circle’ centred on the marble Celtic cross memorial to the Bishop of Auckland and the Hordern monument. Three other major plots of graves of members of Catholic religious orders have been given a more highly managed treatment in recent years, including the original burial plot of Mother Mary MacKillop.

CCB are currently undertaking a staged program of landscape maintenance, comprising the following:

11.1 Stage 1
Initially retain and manage all plants higher than 1 metre. Identified trees, shrubs and special species that contribute to the character and significance of the cemetery will be retained for long term management and maintenance.

Herbaceous growth on graves throughout the cemetery should be trimmed to a level just above grave kerbs, with the exception of weed-free clumps of ornamental species such as Watsonia cultivars, Coreopsis or special grasses and obvious symbolic plantings such as historic roses, Vinca major (Blue Periwinkle) and bulbs such as jonquils on babies’ graves. Woody plants including ornamental plantings such as azaleas and camellias and self-sown specimens of Indian Hawthorn are to be retained pending a decision on their longer-term retention or removal.

Spraying of pathways and some pruning of larger plants and trees where they are encroaching on pathways and grave sites.

11.2 Stage 2
Maintenance Phase with approximately 17 cuts per year, staggered to be more frequent in high summer and less frequent in the winter. The frequency of cutting, especially in the spring, will be monitored and adjusted to facilitate growth of desirable flowering plants such as Coreopsis, Freesia, Ixia and grasses. This stage will include selective replanting and reseeding to encourage the regrowth of non-invasive flowering plants and grasses.
11.3 Stage 3
This stage is still to be costed and agreed with Marsupial after completion of Stage 1

Identify and tag large plants to be cut down and treated with appropriate herbicide. Cut down and spray to kill identified larger plants and woody shrubs, after consultation on site with Chris Betteridge. Priority should be given to removal of those woody self-sown weeds that are damaging or are likely to damage memorials or kerbs. Cut stumps of poisoned trees and shrubs will in general be allowed to decompose naturally to avoid damage to graves and monuments that might arise if stumps and root systems were to be pulled out.

The CCB works are complemented by:
Continuation of the current grass cutting and general maintenance to those graves for which there is an Annual Care arrangement.

Continuation of the current activities to graves for which there are current volunteer or special interest group maintenance programs.
Additional work to the area around Mary MacKillop’s original burial plot will be the subject of a separate project.

The work to date has revealed considerably more of the physical features of the place, primarily the pathways, graves, headstones and memorials that were previously partly or totally obscured by heavy overgrowth of the landscaping. Although the landscaping will take time and careful cyclical management to recapture the strength of its evolved character, the significance of the place as a particularly fine example of a Late Victorian / Edwardian landscaped public burial ground with landmark qualities in now better revealed than it has been for some decades.

It has been agreed between GHMCT and CCB that the work to date and the continuation of the initial stage of cutting has laid an acceptable basis for the long term conservation and management of the landscaped setting of the cemetery. Targeted use of appropriate herbicides to control undesirable weed species combined with carefully timed cutting regimes to encourage desirable herbaceous species will ensure the retention of a mosaic of vegetation across the cultural landscape and conservation of heritage values.

12.0 Further Landscape Maintenance Guidelines
In accordance with the 1996 Plan of Management and the draft Landscaping Guidelines, the following actions are recommended and should be incorporated into the staged maintenance program as appropriate. This will result in a managed change to the overall landscape character, but one that retains the patchwork complexity of the memorial cemetery and enables a rotating cycle of maintenance that responds to the seasonal growth and flowering of decorative and commemorative plants, with controlled regrowth of non-invasive grasses and plants.
The landscaped perimeter to the Pacific Highway and the northern and eastern boundaries should be maintained and strengthened following the removal of weeds, invasive plants and remnant but redundant tree stumps.

The staged cutting, cyclical maintenance and selective shrub or tree removal program currently underway under CCB direction is acceptable, particularly with its cyclical program of cutting adjusted to suit seasonal and climactic conditions at the cemetery.

As part of the stage 3 works, all woody plants, especially the self sown and invasive species that are growing on or in close proximity to graves and have the potential to cause damage, shall be cut down in a staged and programmed manner, poisoned and allowed to decompose. Where possible without damaging graves or monuments, these should be pulled out.

Invasive weed species, especially Asparagus Fern, Fishbone Fern and Honeysuckle are to be cut down to kerb height and then sprayed to eradicate the patch. These weeds are so invasive that damage or short-term destruction of other plant species in the immediate locality is acceptable to facilitate the subsequent replacement of undesirable weeds with preferred plant species. It is anticipated that there will be sufficient material in the remnant seed bank to encourage regrowth unaffected by the invasive species.

Regrowth and reseeding of selective non-invasive or commemorative plants, the reinforcement of existing planting character with infill planting as necessary will protect the patchwork character and sectional differences that characterise the overall cemetery. At this stage, CCB have not agreed or costed this proposal.

Continued spraying of pathways is acceptable, but extreme care should be taken when spraying around the rows of palm trees.

Where grave plots have a solid stone, marble or tiled cover or pebble bed, these will be cleared back and maintained in a generally unobstructed manner. In some cases small perimeter non-invasive plants will be retained or encouraged.

13.0 References
Noxious Weeds Committee – Sydney North (n.d.), *Stop the Spread: Noxious Weeds are spoiling our environment*.


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